

JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

Encel Chaffin Graphically Relates Some Instances of The Battles He Took Part In.

Pays High Tribute To The Mothers Who Gave Their Sons For The Freedom of Humanity.

Their Prayers The Main Factor in America Winning.

In the following letter to his papa, Encel Chaffin, modestly relates some of his experiences in battles he participated in. He served as gunner in Co. B., 114 Machine Gun Battalion, which saw some of the hardest fighting that our American troops took part in.

La Mans, France,
Sunday, Nov. 24, '18.
Mr. J. R. Chaffin,
Gainesboro, Tenn., R-1.
Dear Papa:

Today being set aside in the army, as a day for writing papa a Christmas letter, I shall answer the call with my very best effort.

There are now so many good things to write of, that I hardly know what to write in order to make my letter the more interesting.

First, our official newspaper tells us that the censor lid is lifted, and this leaves open a field, which I felt very unable to cover. However, I shall begin by telling you of some of our operations, and my experiences in taking part in them.

As you probably know we sailed from New York, May 11, for some port in Europe, we knew not which one. We pursued a Northeastern route for fourteen days, finally landing at Liverpool, England, after an uneventful trip across the Atlantic. From Liverpool we proceeded by train to Folkstone, a port on the English Channel. It was while there that we heard the first rumble of the cannon of the big war. After spending a few days there we crossed the channel, landing at a well-known old French town, Callay, where saw the real effects of the war, many of the buildings and churches having been destroyed by air raids. We also saw our first Hun prisoners. The prisoners were exceptionally large, red faced and fat. We at once realized what we had to cope with. However, we learned later, that they were "fed up" on Allied rations, and far better men than those whom they had left holding the Hun lines. While at Callay we discarded a great portion of our clothing and other equipment. On the first of June we drew new equipment and entered a training camp at Audricq, (pronounced Audrique) where we remained for about six weeks.

On July the tenth we crossed the Belgium border and entered the section just left by the invading Hun. While here we continued training for a while, and at last took up positions in the lines between Ypres and Kemmel Hill. During this time there

existed great fear of a drive by the Germans that would sweep the Allied armies into the English Channel. But we were too optimistic to believe it, for we were there to go forward, not backward. During this time one of our officers entered a tailing shop and called for an American uniform, to which the tailor replied "you don't want a uniform, you want a bathing suit." While there our boys experienced their first battle, taking the Kemmel Hill from the Germans. This was a minor operation to what came later, but then a great deed in our estimation.

We left Belgium in August and after a day and night in box cars we landed in the Arras sector, near St. Paul, France, where we spent some very pleasant days, being well back of the lines, where we could have lights at night and go where we pleased without wearing a gas mask.

In September we took another move, which carried us thru Albert, a once nice town, but now completely destroyed, having been under fire of both the Allied and German guns. It was here that the brave little Australian army passed thru the retreating British army and stopped the big Spring drive in March. After traveling for miles and miles thru a war wrecked country that looked more like a parairie swept by a storm, we arrived at Hamel, just back of St. Quentin and Cambria, where we were to take part in the big drive. We were here for a month before I ever saw a civilian.

On September the 18th we took up our first positions in the Picardy sector, within two thousand yards of the famous Hindenburg line. We spent two days and nights in rest camp. Then on Sunday morning, September 20th at five fifty we put over a forty-five minute barrage on the canal sector of the Hindenburg line, the strongest fortified position which I have ever seen. This was the most important part we played in the battle. In this particular sector there were nine hundred extra machine guns firing at the rate of six shots a second, and nine hundred cannon ranging from three to fourteen bore, each of which begun firing on the German position at five-fifty sharp. Under this barrage and the cover of smoke and fog our infantry went forward and routed the German forces in hand to hand fighting, because it was impossible to see a man twenty paces away. After our forty-five minutes of hard fighting, which we spent all the previous night preparing for, we returned to a quieter sector, where we were held in reserve for two more days and nights, but ready to move on a moments notice.

During this time our valetant "dough boys" pressed forward amid shot and shell too fierce for pen to portray. We then had two more days rest and returned to the lines and entered our second engagement in this sector. During this battle we had eighteen men and one Platoon Lieutenant wounded, but none killed. The heavy shells fell thick and

fast around us, and it was luck that we came out as well as we did. But we went into the battle with all confidence of winning and we won. We were too busily engaged with our part of the battle to think of fear. During the barrage my gun mate said, "we are giving 'em hell for the first time, arn't we." I said "yes, keep it up" and we did, and succeeded in pumping about two thousand shots into the Huns. We could hardly shout loud enough to be heard two feet away, so we just laughed and "carried on."

Then on October 18th we went over the top with 118th Infantry and protected their flank in the advance. During this advance we saw the fiercest battle we have ever witnessed, having lost three men killed and thirty wounded, and original strength having been 174 men. When night came my corporal and I were the only ones left in the squad that I started out with and it was supposed to have eight men. We started out with about two thousand rounds of ammunition and that night we had left just two hundred and fifty. We advanced over the crest and down the slope of a hill, while a five inch German battery fired at us with open sights, only about three thousand yards away. A number of times I saw the smoke from the cannon firing on us, and we would duck into a shell hole or a "Jerry" dugout, only to find ourselves sitting on a dead German, then we had an inclination to move. The dead and wounded lay thick all along, and large columns of prisoners came straggling to the rear, often by themselves inquiring the way to the nearest cage.

We continued this advance until October 20th, during which time many other things of interest took place, but space does not permit me to relate them now.

We reached a rest camp seven miles from Albert, France, and on November 1st we received the news of Austria's surrender, and then we shouted for joy, for we were confident our efforts had not been spent in vain, and that we would not return to the lines any more. Then on the eve of November 10th we received the news that Germany had signed the armistices and that the guns would cease firing at eleven o'clock the following day. Then again shouted with new joy, more than ever before, for we knew this was the climax to the great historical event that had been in progress for nearly five years.

Thanksgiving day is now near at hand and we, one and all are truly thankful beyond all words of expression for the glorious achievements in which we have participated; for the unceasing loyalty of all the loved ones at home, who have played such a gallant part and without whom we could never have won. We shall never forget your loyal devotion to the cause of liberty; the dear mothers who gave their sons for humanity, nor the trust which you placed in us; your labor, your money, and most of all your prayers have won the day for America and placed a new wreath on the Statue of Liberty, which we are now longing to see.

Well, papa this is my Christmas letter to you. I hope that you many find in it something worth while, or of a little interest.

I close by wishing you, mama,

and all home folks a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Your loving son,
Encel.

Solicitation Of Funds For World Charities Very Necessary.

The need for continued supervision of the solicitation of funds by State Councils of Defense has not in any way been terminated by the signing of the armistice. Nearly all voluntary societies which solicited funds for purposes arising out of the war will continue to solicit during the period of demobilization and reconstruction. In addition, new societies will arise both for the reconstruction of the devastated areas of Europe and for relief, welfare, and "reconstruction" purposes at home.

In the face of this situation, it is important that each State Council of Defense continue to protect the citizens of its State from fraud, from wastage of their funds and from constant petty and irritating solicitation. It is equally important that the public be protected from the effects of confused, inarticulated effort and ill-considered action—a protection of persons as much as of dollars.

Furthermore, in a strikingly high degree, the resources which are available for relief and the total of voluntary contributions, are both limited. Each dollar that is given, each resource that is consumed for unnecessary or fraudulent ends, is directly deducted from the funds and resources available for necessary work. Moreover, the generosity of persons who have found out that their contributions for relief or welfare have been wasted or fraudulently appropriated is almost invariably blighted, and not only their immediate, but all their potential future contributions are withdrawn from the support of necessary work.

At the present time the conservation of the funds of available voluntary contributions is especially important. The established local charitable and social societies have had their resources depleted and their organizations undermined through the strain of the war. Suddenly, and almost without warning, the demobilization of the army and of industry, the waves of unemployment that are sure to follow and the closing in of a winter of unparalleled high prices, have precipitated upon them a tremendous need for their services which their greatest strength will be taxed to meet.

To conserve our local and overseas relief and welfare funds and resources as well as to protect our citizens, an adequate state wide supervision of the solicitation of funds is urgently needed. We therefore request that during the period of demobilization and readjustment each State Council continue to supervise the solicitation of funds for purposes arising out of the war.

No solicitation of funds for alleged war purposes should be permitted except that of Allied war work, Red Cross and Belgian Relief. If there should be any collection attempted upon the part of any one, demand of such person a permit from the State Council of Defense; and if it cannot be shown, take steps to stop the collection.

Tennessees must not be imposed upon under the guise of war charities. All proper purposes will be granted permits by the State Council.

Very truly yours,
Rutledge Smith
Chairman and Field Secretary

STATE HEALTH OFFICER GIVES SOME ADVICE ON INFLUENZA.

Tells How The Disease Is Spread and Best Way To Treat It.

Dr. Olen West, State Health Officer, gives the following timely advice as to the spread and treatment of influenza.

How the "Flu" is Spread.

Apparently, influenza is a mouth to mouth, nose to nose and perhaps hand to mouth infection; that is to say the infection is spread from person to person because of infected oral and nasal cavities. Coughing and sneezing spitting and spray crowding and careless or uncleanly habits are guilty factors in the spread of the disease. Undoubtedly the "carrier" plays a large part in the spread of influenza just as in meningitis and in other communicable diseases. The handkerchief should become a habit with the people; promiscuous coughing and sneezing and hawking and spitting should be taboo; discharges of all sorts from the human body should be destroyed if possible and so disposed of as to reduce the danger from them to a minimum where it is not possible to destroy them. Especially should all discharges from the body of the person sick be carefully disposed of. Cover up your cough don't cough if you can keep from it. Don't sneeze but if you just have to sneeze cover it up.

How "to Beat the Disease."

The outstanding lesson that the people should learn from the recent epidemic is this. The individual who maintains his bodily resistance by the common sense observation of common sense living is the individual who is going to beat "flu". This question of getting well or dying from disease is simply a matter of fight between disease germs and the protective elements in a man's blood and tissues. These protective elements are maintained in the greatest abundance and in the greatest strength and in the best fighting shape in the body of the fellow who lives right, and he is the fellow who when sickness comes, overwhelmed the disease germs rather than being overwhelmed by them. Common sense living involves the observance of sleep recreation, exercise, work, air and the maintenance of the normal functions of the excretory organs of the body. It also involves the heeding of the signs of nature by which the individual is warned that the normal state is disturbed. For instance the fellow who insists on staying out of bed when he knows that he has influenza, with the boast that he "is not going to let the grip down him," is certainly not following any common sense rule of living. It is a fact that many men, some of them very prominent men in Tennessee lost their lives because of their disobedience of common sense rule in their obstinate refusal to go to bed when they knew they were sick. The fellow who insisted on getting up too soon and resuming his usual activities also paid with his life the price of his foolishness in many instances during the recent

epidemic.

Dissipation Is Always Dangerous.

Dissipation, whether it be drunkenness, excessive indulgence of any sort gorging with food or what not is the enemy of good health and the ally of disease—especially disease like influenza. Overwork is dissipation with many men and overwork is also a strong enemy of health. Laziness is dissipation which precludes a sensible amount of sensible exercise is an enemy of health.

The proper amount of proper food at the proper times, the right amount of the right kind of exercise, the right amount of work and the right amount of play, the proper amount of sleep in airy quarters, the cultivation of a cheerful spirit—common sense living in fact, is what helps most to keep well folks well. And when a man who is used to being well gets influenza, the common sense procedure for him is to maintain the resistance he has built up by getting in the bed and staying there until that resistance has outfought and finally and completely defeated the germs of influenza.

It is undoubtedly true that a great many persons who had influenza during the recent epidemic were over treated—some times by doctors, but most often by themselves or their friends. One man well known in his community, and known too, as an intelligent citizen under usual conditions, is said to have taken 6 aspirin tablets and several doses from each of three bottles of patent medicine one day, was vaccinated and used up the prescriptions of a doctor during the next three days, and drank all the whisky he could get the next, though when well he never drank at all; wrapped himself up in hot blankets for hours, in fact did every thing that any body suggested to him,—died. It is quite probable if he could have held out another day or two a dozen more of his friends and acquaintances would have been glad to contribute their mites to his undoing. The truth is that the average case of influenza probably needs no medicine at all beyond the administration, perhaps of a simple purgative. Excessive amounts of aspirin, antipyretic or any other coal tar drug is positively dangerous practice, just as is the excessive use of whisky. The use of strong cathartics is also a dangerous practice in epidemic influenza. The things to do, are these: Go to bed in a warm bed in a well ventilated room, and call the very doctor you know. When the doctor comes, don't insist on running your case, but let him do it. If he thinks you do not need medicine, don't demand that he give you medicine. Stay in bed until you are able to get up, which means there is no sort of doubt about being well enough. Keep your body warm and eat sensible amounts of easily digested and nourishing food. Sleep all you can. That's about all for the average case. A case that is worse than the average, should have the careful attention of a good doctor throughout.

TOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE.

The David Loftis town property, consisting of dwelling, barn and the best garden spot in town. Good well water. Good location. For further particulars, call or see Dr. H. P. Loftis Gainesboro.